



**INITIAL REPORTS ON  
SPOUSE ABUSE FROM THE  
U.S. ARMY CENTRAL REGISTRY  
(1975-1995)**



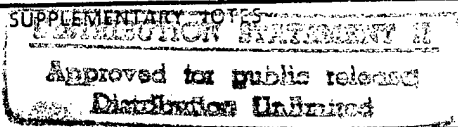
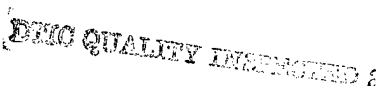
Analysis Conducted by the Family Violence and Trauma Project  
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13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) This report is an analysis of the total number of spouse abuse cases that have been recorded in the U.S. Army Central Registry between 1975-1995. The following types of case data are recorded: source of referral, demographic characteristics of the victim and offender, location of victim residence and where the incident occurred, the relationship of the victim to the offender, the offender's history of violence and abuse, substance abuse involvement of the victim and offender, and the military and civil actions that had occurred at the time that the case was reported. There are 60,002 initial substantiated cases, 5,076 subsequent incidents, and 3,542 re-opened cases. The percentage of female victims was 68%. The most frequently reported type of maltreatment was minor physical injury, 93.8% of the cases. Emotional maltreatment accounted for 8% and major physical injury for 3.1%. For victims, 17.7% of the cases had alcohol involvement; 24% of offenders had alcohol involvement. About 68% of the offenders were active duty Army personnel. The number of cases and the rates per thousand married persons (spouses) are presented. Further comparisons between initial substantiated, subsequent incidents, and re-opened cases are presented in the appendix.				
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**NOTE: THIS MATERIAL MAY BE REPRODUCED FOR  
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# *Table of Contents*

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Types of Cases</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Authority for and Maintenance of the Data Base</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Major Types of Data Collected</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>INITIAL SUBSTANTIATED INCIDENTS</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Sources of Referral to Family Advocacy</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Type of Maltreatment</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Victim Age</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Victim Age Group by Type of Abuse</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Victim Race</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Victim Sex</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Residence of Victim and Location of Incident</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Treatment of Victims</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Victim Substance Involvement</b>	<b>13</b>

<b>Offender Age</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Offender Race</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Offender Sex</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Offender Substance Involvement</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Offender History of Violence and Abuse</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Military and Civilian Actions Following Cases</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>FREQUENCIES AND RATES OF ABUSE</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Population of U.S. Army, 1989-1995</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Population of U.S. Army Spouses, 1989-1995</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Frequencies of U.S. Army Spouse Abuse, 1989-1995</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Rates of Spouse Abuse in U.S. Army, 1989-1995</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>SUBSEQUENT INCIDENTS</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>RE-OPENED CASES</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>GLOSSARY</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>24</b>

# ***Analyses of Reports of Spouse Abuse from the U.S. Army Central Registry (1975-1995)***

## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

**The Army Central Registry.** This report is an analysis of the Army spouse abuse cases that have been recorded in the Army Central Registry (ACR), a centralized, confidential data base and source of training in the reporting of spouse abuse and child abuse and neglect cases. It is maintained by the Family Advocacy Support Section, Customer Service Division/Patient Administration and Biostatistics Activities (PASBA), Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

**Types of Case Data Recorded.** The ACR records the source of case referral, the demographic characteristics of the victim and offender, the type of maltreatment, substance involvement of victim and offender, location of victim residence and where the incident occurred. The relationship of the offender to the victim, the offender's history of violence, and the military and civil actions that occur as a result of the case are also recorded.

**Distribution of ACR Initial Substantiated Cases.** There were 60,002 initial substantiated cases (see Glossary) of spouse abuse in the ACR from 1975-1995. This number included spouse abuse cases from other services, retired military personnel, and civilians who were eligible for FAP services. If only cases involving an Army sponsor are counted, then the total number of initial substantiated cases is 57,849. This number represents 96.4% of the total number of spouse abuse cases. For subsequent incidents (see Glossary) and re-opened cases (see Glossary), the percentages of cases involving an Army sponsor were even higher, 97.4% and 97.9% respectively. Because of the preponderance of Army cases in the ACR, the balance of this report will include only cases involving Army sponsors.

Rates of initial substantiated abuse were calculated only from 1989-1995 since Army Central Registry data prior to 1989 are considered less reliable. From 1989 to 1995, there were 50,227 initial Army substantiated cases, or an average of about 7,451 cases per year. This number represented about 87% of the initial substantiated cases. The rate of overall spouse abuse for initial substantiated cases only has been between 8.0/1,000 and 10.5/1,000 married persons during this period. There were 7,622 cases prior to 1989, or 13% of the total number of initial substantiated cases.

**Subsequent Incidents and Re-opened Cases.** There were 5,076 subsequent incidents (8.8% of the initial substantiated Army cases) and 3,542 re-opened cases (6.1% of the initial substantiated Army cases).

## Summary of Findings for Initial Substantiated Cases

- **Referral Sources.** The major sources of initial referral were law enforcement (44.8%), medical/dental (18.9%), and command (15.3%). Eight percent were victim self-referrals and 3.8% were offender self-referrals.
- **Victim Sex.** The percentage of female victims was 68%; the percentage of male victims was 32%.
- **Offender Sex.** The percentage of male offenders was 68%; the percentage of female offenders 32%.
- **Types of Maltreatment.** The most frequently reported category of spouse maltreatment was minor physical injury, 93.8% of the cases. Emotional maltreatment accounted for 8% of the cases, and major physical injury for 3.1%. Thirty-four spouse fatalities have been recorded in the ACR.
- **Ages of Victims and Offenders.** About 41% of spouse abuse victims and offenders were between the ages of 22-26. About 83% of victims and offenders were between the ages of 18-31.
- **Races of Victims.** The number of black victims was 27,259 which represented 47.8% of all spouse abuse victims. The number of white victims was 22,767, or 39.9% of all victims. The number of Hispanic victims was 4,585, or 8.0%. The percentage of black victims was far greater than would be expected based on the percentage of married black soldiers in the Army (27.9% in 1995). The percentage of white married soldiers in the Army in 1995 was 60.7%.
- **Races of Offenders.** The number of black offenders was 29,044 which represented 51.0% of all spouse abuse offenders. The number of white offenders was 21,495, or 37.8% of all offenders. Hispanic offenders were 4,528, or 8.0%.
- **Victim Substance Involvement.** For victims, alcohol was involved in 17.7% of the cases. Substance use was reported as "Unknown" in 17.7% of the cases, and "No Involvement" was reported for 64.1% of victims.
- **Offender Substance Involvement.** For offenders, alcohol was involved in 24.1% of the cases. Substance use was reported as "Unknown" in 18.5% of the cases, and "No Involvement" was reported for 56.7% of offenders.
- **Treatment of Victims.** The great majority of victims (90.5%) received social services treatment. Outpatient medical treatment was provided in 24.1% of the cases and inpatient treatment was provided in 1.4%.



- **Military: Civilian.** About 68% of the offenders were active duty Army members, about 32% were civilians. About 40% of the victims were active duty Army members, about 60% were civilians.
- **Trends, Frequencies, and Rates.** The following trends were noted for case frequencies and rates:
  - The number of cases fluctuated drastically during the period 1990 to 1993, probably based on the deployment of a large Army force to Operation Desert Storm in 1990-1991 (see Figure 7). There was about a 10% increase in 1990 follow by about a 13% decrease in 1991 which was subsequently followed by another increase in 1992. Following these changes, the frequency returned to about the same level as in 1989.
  - When the rates of spouse abuse per thousand married persons were examined (Figure 5), a slight decrease was noted in 1991, but since 1992, the rate has remained relatively steady at about 10/1,000. Thus, when the Army had a major combat deployment, there was a slight decrease (about 1 case per 1,000 married persons) in the rate of spouse abuse.
  - It should also be noted that during a major deployment such as Operation Desert Storm, accurate counts of the military population become more difficult and hence rates may be suspect. This was particularly true during Operation Desert Storm because of the large number of Army national guard and reserve soldiers that were brought on active duty. Their rates of family violence are probably not captured in the Army Central Registry statistics. Thus, the changes in rates in 1990-1991 may be an understatement of the true rates since the population figure was probably inflated.
  - The size of the Army and the number of married persons in the Army also decreased from 1989 to 1995 (see Figure 6).

### **Summary of Findings for Subsequent Incidents**

There were 5,067 subsequent incidents of spouse abuse, 8.8% of the total initial substantiated incidents. Figure 9 shows that the number of subsequent incidents as a percent of initial substantiated incidents have steadily increased from 1991 to 1995. From these data, it is impossible to determine if this represents more abuse or better reporting. Some comparisons listed below show the nature of these incidents. This summary provides comparisons between the initial substantiated cases and the subsequent incidents.

- The percentage of law enforcement referrals increased from 44.8% to 46.3%.
- The percentage of cases that were classified as major physical injury increased from 3.1% to 4.2%.

- The percentage of female victims increased from 68.1% to 72.9%. There was a corresponding increase in the percentage of male offenders.
- The percentage of white victims decreased from 39.9% to 34.2%.
- The percentage of black victims increased from 47.8% to 53.2%.
- The percentage of Hispanic victims decreased from 8.0% to 7.7%.
- The percentage of white offenders decreased from 37.8% to 31.3%.
- The percentage of black offenders increased from 51.1% to 58.3%.
- The percentage of Hispanic offenders decreased from 8.0% to 7.1%.
- The percentage of victims with alcohol involvement decreased from 17.7% to 12.9%.
- The percentage of offenders with alcohol involvement decreased from 24.1% to 19.1%.
- The on-post location of the incident increased from 49.5% to 51.8%.
- On-post residential status of the victims increased from 49.3% to 51.3%.
- The military and civilian actions taken after subsequent incidents showed increases in the following categories:
  - military medical services, from 40.6% to 48.1%
  - military police investigation, from 30.8% to 34.5%
  - civilian police investigation, from 8.4% to 12.5%
  - military administrative action, from 4.5% to 9.8%

### **Summary of Findings for Re-Opened Cases**

There were 3,542 re-opened cases, 6.1% of the total initial substantiated incidents. Figure 9 shows that the percentage of re-opened cases as a percentage of the initial substantiated incidents has remained relatively steady from 1989-1995. When the characteristics of re-opened cases were compared to the subsequent incidents, there were very few differences in the results. Only those differences are reported here.

- The percentage of law enforcement referrals increased from 46.3% to 55.4%.
- The percentage of female victims increased from 72.9% to 76.7%. There was a corresponding increase in the percentage of male offenders.
- The percentage of white victims decreased from 34.2% to 30.0%
- The percentage of black victims increased from 53.2% to 58.1%.
- The percentage of Hispanic victims increased from 7.7% to 8.0%.
- The percentage of white offenders decreased from 31.3% to 27.0%.
- The percentage of black offenders increased from 58.3% to 63.7%.

- The percentage of Hispanic offenders decreased from 7.1% to 6.4%.
- The percentage of victims with alcohol involvement increased from 12.9% to 14.3%.
- The percentage of offenders with alcohol involvement increased from 19.1% to 23.1%.
- The on-post location of the incident increased from 51.8% to 58.6%.
- On-post residential status of the victims increased from 51.3% to 58.8%.
- The military and civilian actions taken after re-opened cases was generally similar to those found after the initial substantiated incidents except for:
  - military police investigations increased from 30.8% to 36.6%
  - military administrative actions increased from 4.5% to 8.2%

## Conclusions

**Rates per 1,000.** The rate of spouse abuse per 1,000 married persons remained within relatively tight boundaries between from 1989 to 1995, between 8.0/1,000 and 10.5/1,000 (see Figure 8). The rates of subsequent incidents have increased from 1989 to 1995 while the rates of re-opened cases have remained relatively steady. The reasons for this increase are unknown, but may have implications for case identification, treatment and, especially, prevention.

**Victim Sex.** The percentage of female victims increased over the three categories of cases (initial, subsequent incidents, and re-opened) from about 68% to about 77%.

**Type of Maltreatment.** The percentage of types of maltreatment (major physical injury, minor physical injury, and emotional abuse) were relatively consistent between the three types of reports (initial, subsequent, and re-opened cases). None varied by more than 2.4%. For example, the percentage of cases of major physical injury increased from initial (3.1%) to subsequent (4.2%), and was 3.9% for the re-opened cases. However, this slight percentage increase is important in that it suggests that these cases may be more serious. Emotional abuse decreased slightly over the three categories.

**Age.** The age distributions of the victims of each type of maltreatment were consistent, but it appeared that the subsequent incident victims might be slightly younger and the re-opened cases might be slightly older than the initial substantiated incidents.

**Type of Referral.** Law enforcement referrals continued to increase over the three types of cases. Medical and dental referrals showed a slight decrease. Command referrals also decreased.

**Race.** The racial distribution showed decreases in the number of white victims and offenders and the opposite trend in black victims and offenders. While the percentage of Hispanic victims was approximately the same, the percentage of Hispanic offenders showed a slight decrease.

**Substance Abuse.** The percentage of offenders in which alcohol involvement was reported for initial substantiated cases (24.1%) was substantially higher than that of the victims (17.7%). The percentage of cases in which substance involvement was reported as "Unknown" was between 17.7% and 23.6%. In order to understand the role of substance use in family violence, it will be important to determine whether it was involved in a case or was not involved. Such information is important for both treatment and prevention programs.

### **Limitations of the Data**

These analyses were conducted only on the cases of spouse abuse that have been entered into the ACR. They do not represent an assessment of the extent of these problems in the Army. In addition, there are limitations on the data in the ACR.

First, the registry has been an evolving system since it was first instituted. Changes in report forms, regulatory requirements, and systems development enabled the ACR to have its own data entry and quality assurance system to check the accuracy of case information and data coding. Beginning with 1989, the report data are thought to be more reliable than prior to that time. Therefore, the rates of abuse from 1989-1995 are presented in this report.

Second, in spite of the diligence of the ACR staff the data will never be as complete as they would like it to be. All material sent by the field to the ACR is carefully checked for accuracy; however, there are errors made in the field that are impossible to check centrally. Data will be missing when offenders cannot be identified or victims are unable to provide some information.

Third, the ACR is an administrative data base, victim-based, and was not designed for research purposes. This poses limitations on the types of data that have been entered, but, more importantly, makes it more subject to clinical judgment than information collected in a research data base.

### **Future Plans for Additional Analyses**

As additional data are available, more analyses will be accomplished. This report is intended to be an overview of the ACR data up to 1995. Some subgroup analyses are performed, but many more need to be done in the future. As other data (such as health, substance involvement, personnel, and law enforcement) are available for comparison with ACR data, cross-comparisons will be made where possible.

# ***Analyses of Reports of Spouse Abuse from the U.S. Army Central Registry (1975-1995)***

## **INTRODUCTION**

**Purpose of Report.** This report contains analyses of the spouse abuse cases that have been recorded in the Army Central Registry (ACR). The purpose of this report is to present an overview of the data reported in the ACR for all spouse abuse victims for the years in which a registry of such cases has been in existence, 1975-1995. As additional data are available, more analyses will be accomplished. As other data (such as health, substance involvement, personnel, and law enforcement) are available for comparison with ACR data, cross-comparisons will be made, where possible.

**Types of Cases.** Incidents of spouse abuse may come to the attention of military authorities from a variety of military and civilian sources. When such incidents are reported, they are reviewed by a Case Review Committee (see Glossary) that functions under the supervision of the medical treatment facility commander for that installation. Incidents of spouse abuse may be categorized as initial substantiated cases, subsequent cases and re-opened cases (see Glossary). Findings from these three types of cases are presented separately in this report.

**Authority for and Maintenance of the Data Base.** The ACR is a centralized, confidential data base maintained by the Family Advocacy Support Section, Customer Service Division/Patient Administration and Biostatistics Activities (PASBA), Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The purpose of the ACR is to assist in the early identification, verification, and retrieval of reported cases of spouse abuse and child abuse and neglect. The authority for this data base and for the Army Family Advocacy Program is Army Regulation 608-18, dated 30 September 1995. Information is reported on a Department of Defense form (DD Form 2486), Child/Spouse Abuse Incident Report, from each installation that maintains a family advocacy program. The DD Form 2486 is the sole source of data for the ACR. The Case Review Committee (CRC) chair submits a DD Form 2486 for every report of spouse abuse and child abuse and neglect. A DD Form 2486 is also submitted in other circumstances, such as when a family transfers from one post to another. Data provided on the DD Form 2486 are carefully examined for errors and cross-checked with other sources of data for validity at the ACR. When necessary, those who submit the data from the field are asked to make corrections to insure that the data are correct.

**Major Types of Data Collected.** The information on the DD Form 2486 includes, but is not limited to, the type of maltreatment, the source of case referral, the demographic characteristics of the victim and offender, substance involvement of victim and offender, location of victim residence and where the incident occurred. The offender's history of violence, and the military and civil actions that occur as a result of the case are also recorded.

## INITIAL SUBSTANTIATED INCIDENTS

**Sources of Referral to Family Advocacy.** Cases were referred to family advocacy from a variety of sources, both military and civilian, law enforcement, medical and dental, and command authorities. Self-referrals of victims and offenders are also shown by percentage in Table 1.

**Table 1. Source of Initial Substantiated Spouse Abuse Referrals**

<u>Source of Referral</u>	<u>Number of Reports of Referral Source</u>	<u>Percentage of Initial Referrals</u>
Law enforcement	25,764	44.8
Medical and dental	10,866	18.9
Command	8,796	15.3
Self (victims)	4,584	8.0
Self (offender)	2,214	3.8
Other	4,850	5.0

**Type of Maltreatment.** Initial maltreatment reports were of three different types: major physical injury, minor physical injury, and emotional maltreatment. Each victim of maltreatment could be counted in more than one category. For example, a victim could experience both minor physical injury and emotional abuse during one incident. Therefore, when each type of maltreatment was counted as a single event, the total number of maltreatments was 60,653. The total number of victims was 57,849.

Table 2 gives the number of reports of each type of maltreatment and the percentage of the total number of victims.

**Table 2. Types of Spouse Maltreatment Cases**

<u>Type of Maltreatment</u>	<u>Number of Reports of Type of Maltreatment</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Cases*</u>
Major physical injury	1,768	3.1
Minor physical injury	54,285	93.8
Emotional maltreatment	4,600	8.0

\*The total of these percentages adds to more than 100% because each type of maltreatment is compared to the number of cases of spouse abuse, not the total number of incidents of each type of maltreatment. For example, the 1,768 cases of major physical abuse represent 3.1% of all the spouse victims reported (57,849). Since a victim could have more than one type of abuse recorded, the proportion of cases with each type of abuse appeared to be a more reasonable figure to report than the type of abuse as a percentage of the total number of abuse incidents.

**Victim Age.** The age group of 22 to 26 years included the largest number of persons, almost twice the number of victims in age groups 18-21 or 27-31. About 82% of all spouse victims were between the ages of 18 and 31 (see Table 3).

**Table 3. Ages of Spouse Abuse Victims**

<u>Victim Age Group</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
15-17	406	0.7
18-21	11,501	20.6
22-26	22,531	40.3
27-31	12,488	22.3
32-36	6,004	10.7
37-41	2,206	3.9
42-46	597	1.1
47-51	117	0.2
52-65	48	0.1

**Victim Age Group by Type of Abuse for 1995.** Due to the amount of data by age, sex, and type of maltreatment, each type of maltreatment is presented **for 1995 only**. (The data for the years immediately preceding 1995 are very similar.) The types of maltreatment (major physical injury, minor physical injury, and emotional abuse) are plotted to illustrate the nature of the distributions. Each type of maltreatment is first plotted by frequency (number of cases) and age group. The second graph for each type of maltreatment is a plot of age group and sex.

In 1995, for male victims there were 36 cases of major physical injury, 2,359 cases of minor physical injury and 148 cases of emotional abuse. For female victims, there were 88 cases of major physical injury, 3,843 cases of minor physical abuse, and 331 cases of emotional abuse.

**Major Physical Injury.** The frequency of major physical injury by age group 22-26 is shown in Figure 1a. When male and female victims are counted separately, (Figure 1b) female victims outnumber male victims for all age groups.

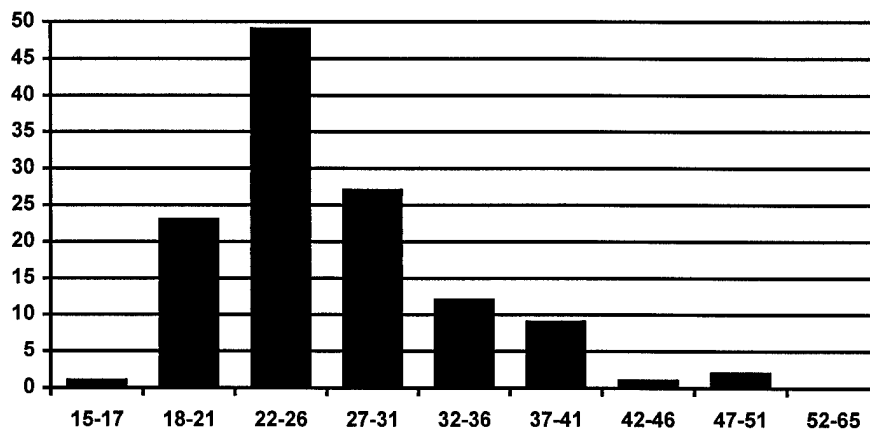


Figure 1a. Frequency of Major Physical Injury by Age Group, 1995.

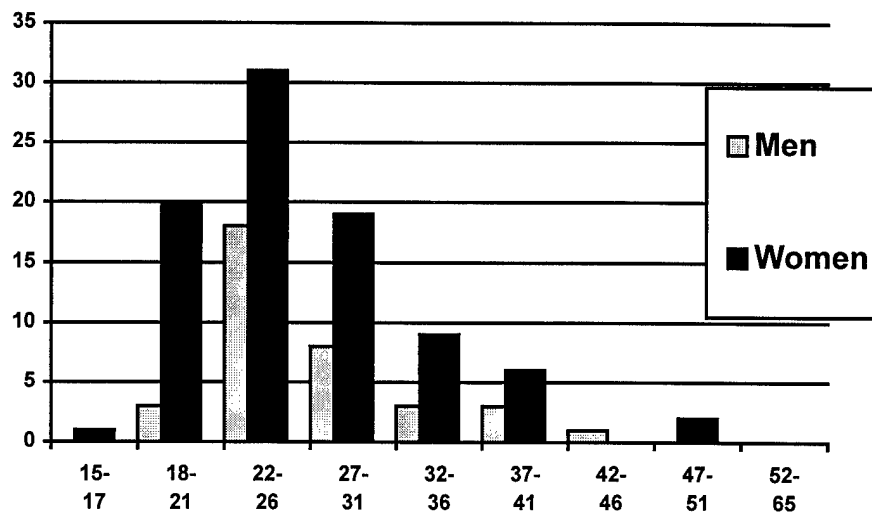


Figure 1b. Frequency of Major Physical Injury by Age Group and Sex, 1995.

**Minor Physical Injury.** The number of cases by age group is shown in Figure 2a.

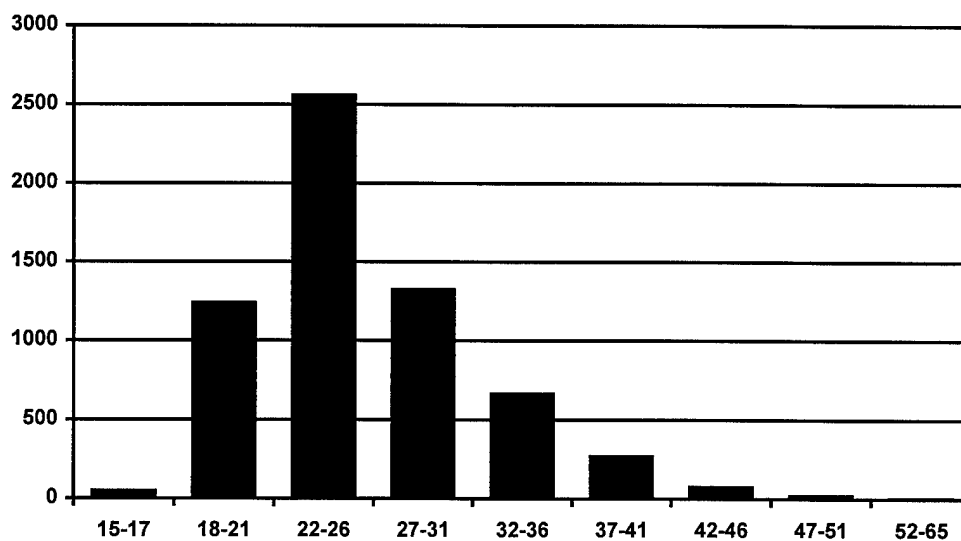


Figure 2a. Frequency of Minor Physical Injury by Age Group, 1995.

When the frequency of minor physical injury is examined by age and sex, the number of female victims is greater than the number of male victims, but the difference decreases as age group increases (Figure 2b).



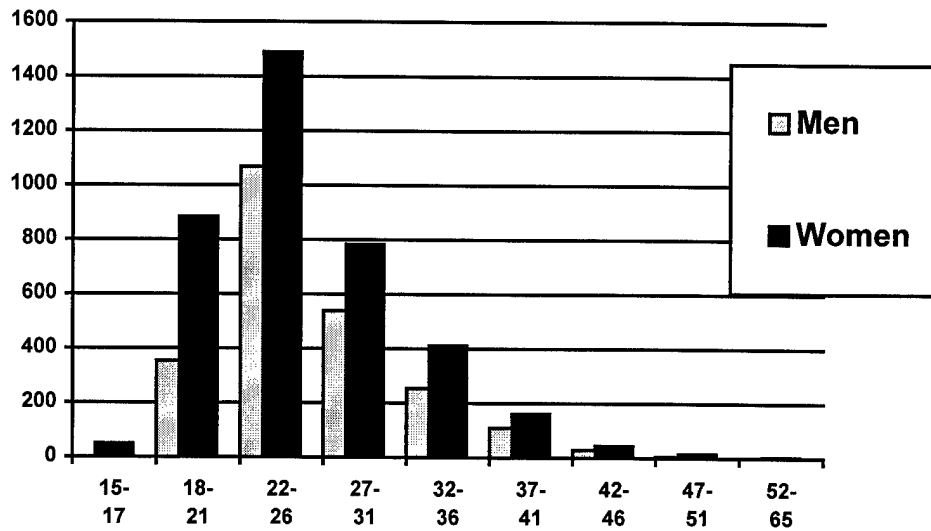


Figure 2b. Frequency of Minor Physical Injury by Age Group and Sex, 1995.

**Emotional Maltreatment.** The number of emotional abuse cases is shown in Figure 3a.

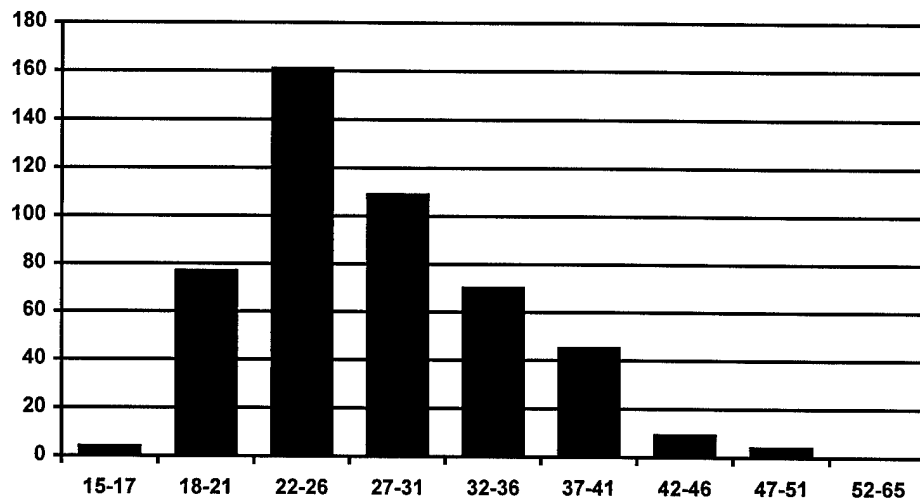


Figure 3a. Frequency of Emotional Maltreatment Cases by Age Group, 1995.

Male and female emotional abuse cases are shown separately by sex in Figure 3b. Emotional abuse reported against men drops off markedly after age 31, but the number of cases of female victims remains relatively high until after age 41.

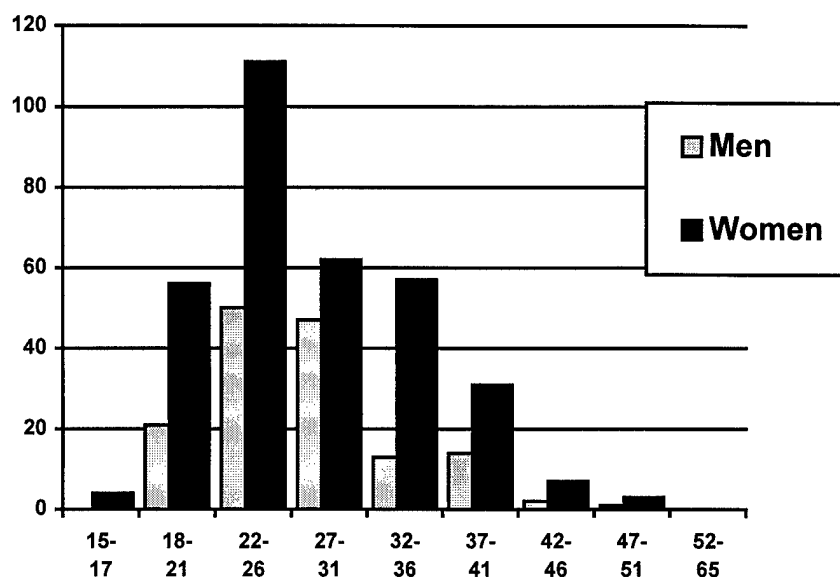


Figure 3b. Frequency of Emotional Maltreatment Cases by Age Group and Sex, 1995.

**Victim Race.** Victim race was recorded in five categories (see Table 4). Whites were the most prevalent category, representing approximately 40% of the victims. Racial and ethnic data are hard to obtain on Army family members, but since families generally mirror the race of the sponsor, the percentage of each racial group of married soldiers may be used as an estimate of the percentage of family members of the same ethnic background. Using this analogy, whites were under-represented compared to their numbers in the married Army (approximately 60.7% in 1995). Blacks (27.9%), Hispanics (5.4%), and Asians/Pacific Islanders (2.0%) were relatively over-represented compared to their representation in the married Army. The category of American Indians and Alaskan Natives was about the same as the percentage in the married Army (0.6%).

**Table 4. Race of Spouse Abuse Victims**

<u>Victim Race</u>	<u>Number of cases</u>	<u>Percentage of total</u>	<u>Percentage of each Racial Group in Married Army</u>
White	22,767	39.9	60.7
Black	27,259	47.8	27.9
Hispanic	4,585	8.0	5.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	2,068	3.6	2.0
American Indian/Alaskan Native	315	0.6	0.6

**Victim Sex.** For all types of abuse, there were more female victims (68.1%) than male victims (31.9%).

**Residence of Victim and Location of Incident.** The number of victims whose residence was on-post was 49.3% compared to 50.7% who resided off-post. (The location of the incidents was similar to the location of victim residence, 49.5% on-post and 50.5% off-post.)

**Treatment of Victims.** The major type of treatment provided was social services (about 90%). Approximately 24% of the victims required outpatient medical treatment and 1.4% required inpatient treatment (See Table 5).

**Table 5. Types of Treatment Provided to Spouse Abuse Victims**

<u>Type of Treatment</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Cases*</u>
Social services	52,327	90.5
Medical outpatient	13,928	24.1
Medical inpatient	816	1.4

\*The total of these percentages adds to more than 100% because each type of treatment is compared to the number of cases, not the total number of types of treatment. For example, the 52,327 instances of social services treatment cases represent 90.5% of the total number of spouse abuse victims (57,849).

**Victim Substance Involvement.** The substance that was most frequently associated with spouse abuse victims was alcohol (see Table 6), but the percentage was only 17.7%. When this number is combined with the number of victims for which their substance involvement was recorded as "Unknown," the percentage could be as high as about 35%. However, that figure cannot be determined from these data. Perhaps even more important is the category of "No involvement" in which, presumably, the inquiry about substance use was made and received a negative reply.

**Table 6. Spouse Abuse Victim Substance Involvement**

<u>Victims Substance Involvement</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
Alcohol	10,152	17.7
Drugs	145	0.3
Alcohol and drugs	148	0.3
Unknown	10,151	17.7
No involvement	36,759	64.1

**Offender Age.** Approximately 75% of the offenders were between the ages of 22-36. About 18% were below age 22; only 6% were above age 36. The age distribution of spouse abuse offenders is shown in Table 7.

**Table 7. Age Distribution of Spouse Abuse Offenders**

<u>Offender Age Group</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
15-17	200	0.4
18-21	9,772	17.8
22-26	22,768	41.4
27-31	12,654	23.0
32-36	6,362	11.6
37-41	2,485	4.5
42-46	600	1.1
47-51	141	0.3
52-65	49	0.1

The age distributions of spouse abuse victims and offenders are compared in Figure 4. These distributions are quite similar although there were 1,934 missing values for the victims and 2,801 for the offenders.

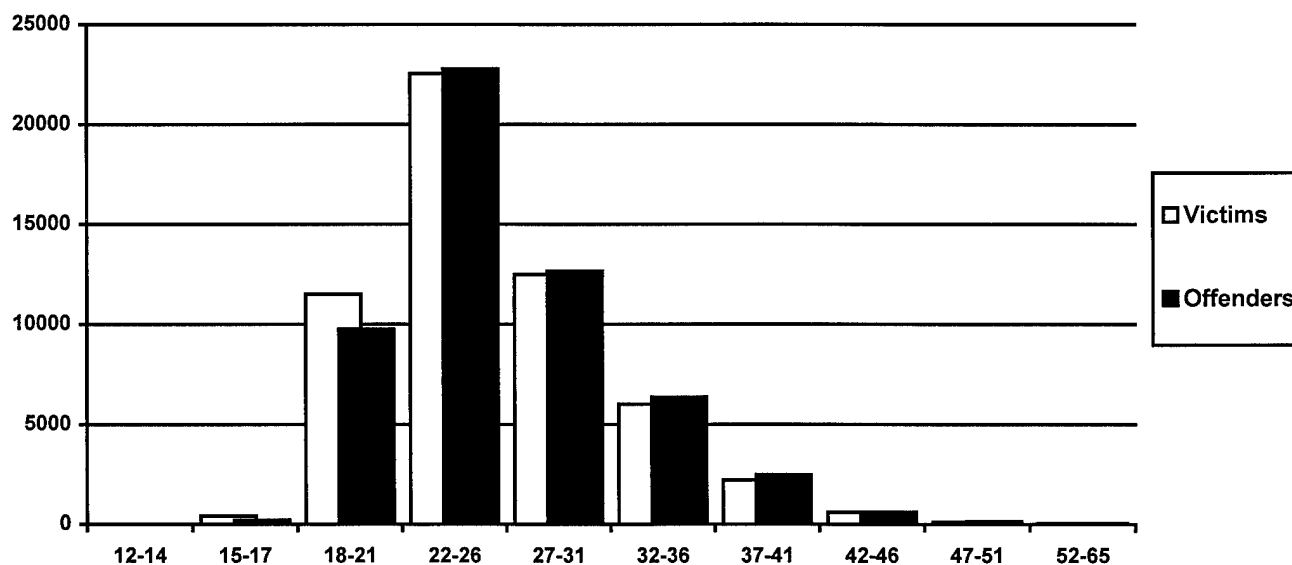


Figure 4. Age Distributions of Spouse Abuse Victims and Offenders, 1995.

**Offender Race.** The race of the offenders is presented in Table 8. The distribution is similar to that of the spouse abuse victims, reported in Table 4.

**Table 8. Race of Spouse Abuse Offenders**

<u>Offender Race</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
White	21,495	37.8
Black	29,044	51.1
Hispanic	4,528	8.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,503	2.6
American Indian/Alaskan Native	323	0.6

**Offender Sex.** The majority of the offenders were men (68.4%) compared to 31.6% female offenders.

**Offender Substance Involvement.** Substance use by the offender was reported in about 25% of the cases. As Table 9 shows, the percentage of cases in which substance use was unknown was 18.5% of the total. However, "No involvement" was documented in 56.7% of the cases.

**Table 9. Spouse Abuse Offender Substance Involvement**

<u>Offender Substance Involvement</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
Alcohol	13,537	24.1
Drugs	189	0.3
Alcohol and drugs	211	0.4
Unknown	10,358	18.5
No involvement	31,796	56.7

**Offender History of Violence and Abuse.** There were seven categories in which prior history of violence and abuse was recorded (see Table 10). Some history of violence or abuse by or to the offender was obtained in 15.5% of the cases. (Since more than one category of abuse history could be recorded for each individual, the total is greater than the number of cases of abuse.)

It is noted in Table 10 that a small percentage of these cases (2.7%) have noted previous involvement in a case of child abuse. This may be a failure of reporting or inability of the interviewer to obtain the information from the client. The figure for a previous case of spouse abuse is considerably higher (8.5%). It is important to understand the relationship of these two events in a family for both prevention and treatment purposes.

**Table 10. Offender History of Violence and Abuse**

<u>Category of Violence History and Abuse</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage of All Reports</u>
Previously referred to alcohol rehabilitation program	4,532	7.8
Previously referred to drug rehabilitation program	252	0.4
Involvement in previously established case of child abuse	1,549	2.7
Involvement in previously established case of spouse abuse	4,942	8.5
Offender previously abused as child	2,496	4.3
Previous abuse history unknown	13,699	23.7
No previous record of abuse	33,174	57.3

**Military and Civilian Actions following Incidents of Spouse Abuse**

Both military and civilian consequences were reported for the spouse abuse incidents. Table 11 provides the summary of military and civilian actions resulting from the aggregated cases. (Military administrative action has no corresponding civilian category.)

**Table 11. Military and Civilian Actions following Spouse Abuse Cases**

<u>Action involved</u>	<u>Number of military actions</u>	<u>Percentage of total military and civilian actions*</u>	<u>Number of civilian actions</u>	<u>Percentage of total military and civilian actions*</u>
Medical	23,491	40.6	814	1.4
Family services	42,331	73.2	2,398	4.1
Police investigation	17,803	30.8	4,851	8.4
Court involvement	951	1.6	3,083	5.3
Military Administrative action	2,629	4.5	NA	NA

\*Percentages add to more than 100% because each case could have more than one action. Each case is compared to the total number of spouse abuse cases, 57,849.

## FREQUENCIES AND RATES OF ABUSE

Since Army Central Registry data prior to 1989 are considered less reliable, the years 1989-1995 will be emphasized in interpretations of the trends in spouse abuse data. Population data were obtained from the Family Data Base, ASM Research Inc., Arlington, Virginia.

**Population of U.S. Army, 1989-1995.** Figure 5 shows the decrease in the number of the married Army soldiers from 1989 to 1995.

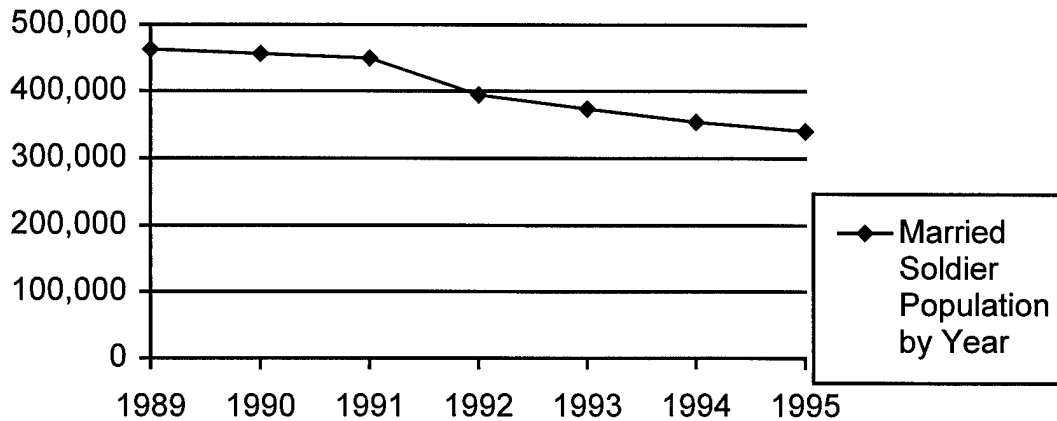


Figure 5. Married Soldier Population by Year.

**Population of U.S. Army Spouses (married persons), 1989-1995.** Figure 6 shows the population of Army married persons from 1989 to 1995. The population of Army married persons has decreased from 1991 to 1995 as a result of the overall decline of the soldier population.

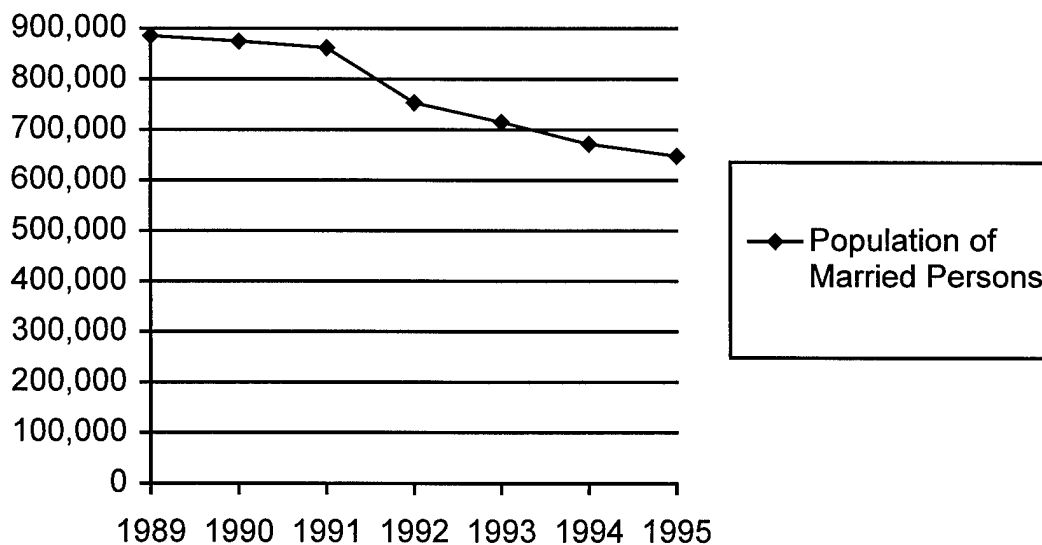


Figure 6. Married Army Population by Year (Soldiers and Spouses).

**Frequencies of U.S. Army Spouse Abuse Cases, 1989-1995.** The number of cases of spouse abuse in the U.S. Army, as reported in the ACR database from 1989 to 1995, is shown in Figure 7. The fluctuations in numbers of cases between 1990 and 1993 are presumably due to the deployment of U.S. Army troops for Operation Desert Storm in 1990-1991 and its aftermath.

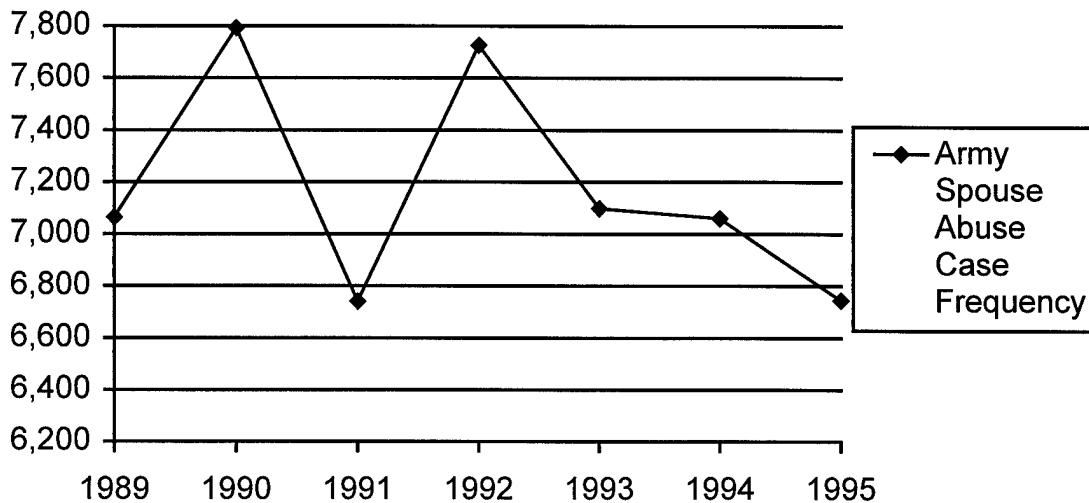


Figure 7. Frequency of Spouse Abuse Cases by Year.

**Rates of Initial Substantiated Cases of Spouse Abuse in the U.S. Army, 1989-1995.** Figure 8 shows the rates of spouse abuse per 1,000 Army married persons from 1989 to 1995. These data indicate an increase of cases until 1992 after which the rates became relatively stable at about 10 per 1,000 married persons.

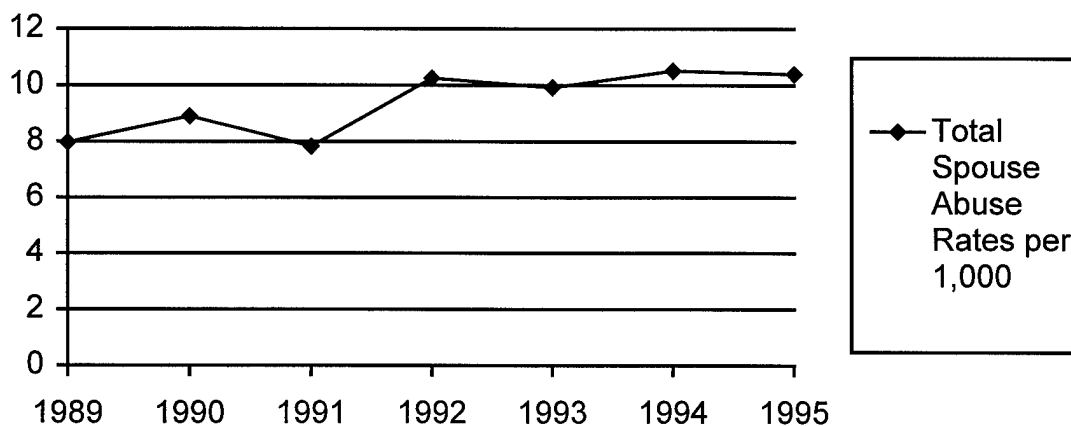


Figure 8. Spouse Abuse Rates per 1,000 Army Spouses (Married Persons).

## SUBSEQUENT INCIDENTS

There were 5,076 subsequent incidents of spouse abuse (8.8% of total initial incidents). When the findings of the subsequent incidents were compared to the initial substantiated incidents, there were very few differences. Only those differences are reported



here. (A complete listing of the differences between initial substantiated, subsequent incidents, and re-opened cases is presented in the Appendix.)

- ◆ The percentage of referrals from law enforcement increased from 44.8% to 46.3%.
- ◆ The type of maltreatment changed slightly in that there were more cases of major physical injury (from 3.1% to 4.2%), fewer cases of minor physical injury (from 93.8% to 91.4%), and fewer cases of emotional abuse (from 8.0% to 7.4%).
- ◆ The percentage of victims and offenders in subsequent incidents increased slightly in the age group 18-26 and decreased for the other age groups.
- ◆ The percentage of female victims increased from 68.1% to 72.9%.
- ◆ Victim race slightly changed in the direction of more black victims (from 47.8% to 53.2%) and fewer white victims (from 39.9% to 34.3%).
- ◆ Offender race also changed in terms of more black offenders (from 51.1% to 58.3%), fewer white offenders (from 37.8% to 31.3%), and fewer Hispanic offenders (from 8.0% to 7.1%).
- ◆ Alcohol involvement decreased for both victims (from 17.7% to 12.9%) and offenders (from 24.1% to 19.1%). Some of the decrease may have come from the "Unknown" category. For victims, the percentage of incidents in which substance abuse was reported as "Unknown" increased from 17.7% to 20.9%. For offenders, the increase was from 18.5% to 23.6%.
- ◆ The military and civilian actions taken after subsequent incidents showed increases in the following categories:
  - ◆ military medical services, from 40.6% to 48.1%
  - ◆ civilian medical services, from 1.4% to 2.2%
  - ◆ civilian social services, from 4.1% to 5.7%
  - ◆ military police investigation, from 30.8% to 34.5%
  - ◆ civilian police investigation, from 8.4% to 12.5%
  - ◆ military court involvement, from 1.6% to 2.9%
  - ◆ civilian court involvement, from 5.3% to 7.8%
  - ◆ military administrative action, from 4.5% to 9.8%

## RE-OPENED CASES

There were 3,542 re-opened cases, 6.1% of total initial substantiated cases. The following noteworthy differences were found for the re-opened cases compared to the subsequent incidents:

- ◆ The percentage of referrals from law enforcement increased from 46.3% to 55.4%.
- ◆ The percentage of male offenders for the re-opened cases was 76.7%, an increase over both the initial substantiated cases (68.1%) and the subsequent incidents (72.9%). The percentage of female victims increased correspondingly.
- ◆ The percentage of outpatient treatment provided to spouse abuse victims remained higher for the re-opened cases (25.9%) compared to the initial substantiated cases (24.1%) and the subsequent incidents (24.8%).
- ◆ The percentage of victims and offenders in the re-opened cases increased in the age groups 27-46 and decreased for the other age groups, particularly the ages 15-26.

- ◆ The percentage of female victims increased from 72.9% to 76.7%.
- ◆ Victim race slightly changed in the direction of more black victims (from 53.2% to 58.1%) and fewer white victims (from 34.3% to 30.0%).
- ◆ Offender race also changed in terms of more black offenders (from 58.3% to 63.7%), fewer white offenders (from 31.3% to 27.0%), and fewer Hispanic offenders (from 7.1% to 6.4%).
- ◆ The military and civilian actions taken after re-opened cases was generally similar to those found after the initial substantiated incidents except for:
  - ◆ military police investigations increased from 30.8% to 36.6%
  - ◆ military administrative actions increased from 4.5% to 8.2%

The proportion of subsequent incidents compared to the number of initial substantiated incidents has increased from 1989 to 1995 (see Figure 9) while the proportion of re-opened cases has remained relatively steady. The reasons for this increase are unknown, but may have implications for case identification, treatment and, especially, prevention.

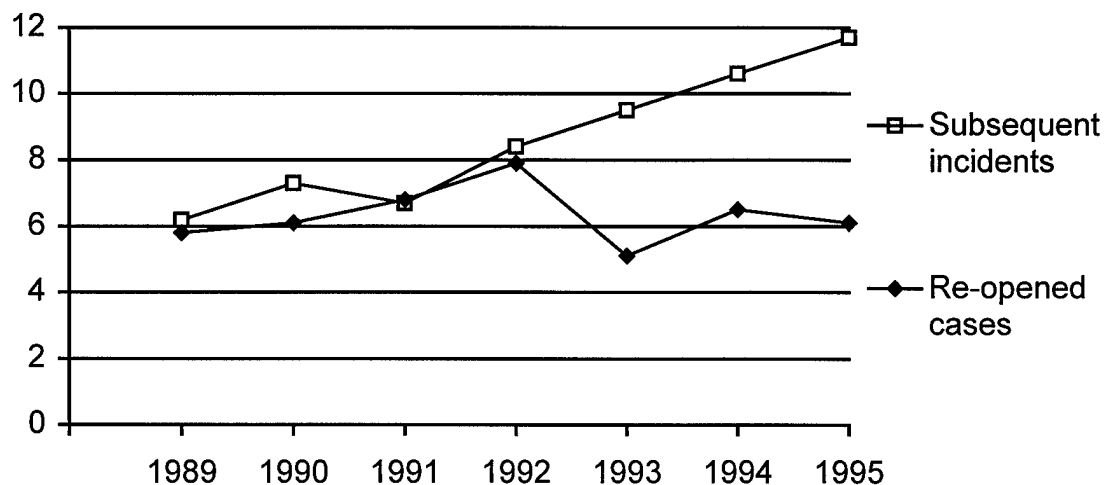


Figure 9. Subsequent Incidents and Re-opened Cases per Year, 1989 to 1995 as a Percentage of Initial Substantiated Incidents.

The percentages of the ages of the victims for each type of case are compared in Figure 10. This indicates that the age distributions are quite similar, but the ages of the re-opened cases are slightly higher than the ages of the initial and subsequent incidents and the subsequent incident cases may be slightly younger than the initial substantiated cases. The reader should remember that the numbers of cases in the subsequent incidents and re-opened cases are smaller than the figures for the initial substantiated incidents. Means and standard deviations of these data will be computed and compared to other demographic data.

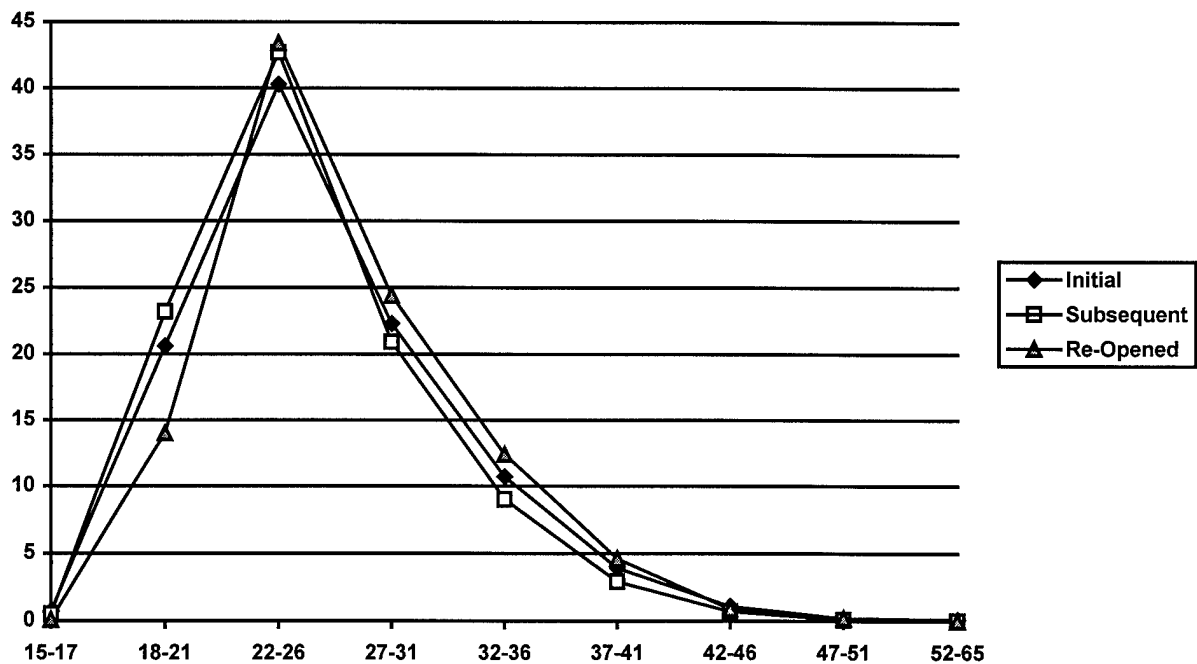


Figure 10. Percentages of the Ages of Spouse Abuse Victims by Type of Case.

## LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

This report represents only those cases of spouse abuse that have been entered into the ACR. It does not represent an assessment of the extent of these problems in the Army. In addition, there are limitations on the data in the ACR.

First, the registry has been an evolving system since it was first instituted in 1975. The reporting requirements and the electronic and human support have improved during this period. It was only in 1989 that the registry obtained its own data entry and quality control system to check the accuracy of case information and data coding. Data are now carefully examined by the ACR staff for errors and, when necessary, additional information is requested from the field to help insure that the data are correct.

Second, in spite of the diligence of the ACR staff the data will never be as complete as they would like it to be. All material sent by the field to the ACR is carefully checked for accuracy; however, there are errors made in the field that are impossible to check centrally. Data will be missing when offenders cannot be identified or victims are unable to provide some information.

A third limitation is that of missing data, shared by all data bases in which case information is incomplete or incorrectly recorded. When some element of information is missing or in error, such as age or sex, that case is effectively lost for that data element, but not for other elements. As a result, the numbers of events are different. The total number of cases may be different from the number of cases in which an age is reported.

# G L O S S A R Y

AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program, implements the FAP. For the majority of the time covered by this report, the AR in force was dated 18 September 1987. As of 1 September 1995, a new AR 608-18 was issued to the field. Most of the definitions in this glossary are based on the 1995 regulation since it is being used in the field today. Where it will be helpful, definitions from the 1987 regulation are provided.

**Case Review Committee (CRC)** - A multidisciplinary team supervised by the medical treatment facility (MTF) commander. The chair of the CRC is ordinarily the Chief of the Social Work Service. The purpose of the CRC is to coordinate the medical, legal, and other forms of intervention and determine whether an incident is substantiated and becomes a treatment case or is not substantiated and receives no further official follow-up. This coordination is normally done by the Social Work Service of the MTF. The CRC is not a public meeting and membership is limited to those prescribed in the regulation. Members must have supervisory or functional responsibility for some aspect of prevention, reporting, identification, investigation, diagnosis, or treatment of child and spouse abuse.

**Closed Case** - If there is no incident within a year's time, the case is normally closed.

## **Emotional Spouse Abuse -**

*In 1987, emotional spouse abuse was defined as follows:*

"Spouse emotional maltreatment is conduct which, although not criminal, is so offensive to the victimized spouse that a reasonable person would find such conduct abhorrent within a marital relationship."

*In 1995, emotional spouse abuse was defined as follows:*

AR 608-18, 1995, gives a general definition with two sub-categories: psychological violence toward the spouse and property violence. Because of the complexity of these definitions, they are repeated here. Emotional spouse abuse is "A pattern of acts or omissions, such as violent acts that may not cause observable injury, that adversely affect the psychological well-being of the victim. Arguments alone are not sufficient to substantiate emotional maltreatment."

(1) "Psychological violence is a pattern of behavior involving one or more of the following behaviors: explicit or implicit threats of violence, extremely controlling types of behavior, extreme jealousy, mental degradation (name calling, etc.), and isolating behavior."

(2) "Property violence by one spouse may constitute emotional abuse if intended as a means to intimidate the other spouse. Property violence includes, but is not limited to, damaging or destroying the other spouse's property, hitting/kicking a door or a wall, throwing food, breaking dishes, and intentionally or recklessly damaging automobiles. Threatening injury to or injuring pets is included in this category."

**Initial Substantiated Case** - A case that has been fully investigated and for which the preponderance of the available information indicates that abuse occurred.

### **Physical Spouse Abuse -**

*In 1987, major and minor were defined as follows:*

**Major physical injury.** Major physical injury (for child and spouse abuse) listed a number of physical injuries any one of which “constitutes a substantial risk to the life or well-being of the individual.”

**Minor physical injury.** This category included a number of minor injuries such as twisting or shaking and others “which do not constitute a substantial risk to the life or well-being of the individual.”

*In 1995, physical spouse abuse was defined in two ways:*

(1) “The use of physical force that caused physical injury to the spouse. Violence generally used to intimidate, control, or force the spouse to do something against his or her will. This may include grabbing, pushing, holding, slapping, choking, punching, sitting or standing on, kicking, hitting with objects, and assaulting with knives, firearms or other weapons.”

(2) “The forcing of one spouse by the other spouse to engage in any sexual activity through the use of physical violence, intimidation, or the explicit or implicit threat of future violence.”

Also in the 1995 regulation, spouse abuse assessment guidelines were provided for mild, moderate, and severe spouse abuse. However, at the time of this writing, the Department of Defense had not approved the DD form 2486 which reflected these changes. Thus the field was left with the categories used in the 1987 regulation.

**Re-opened Case -** Another substantiated incident of abuse occurs after the case has been closed.

**Subsequent Incident -** A substantiated incident of spouse abuse that occurs while the case, based on the initial substantiated incident, is still open.

## APPENDIX

This Appendix contains tables of comparisons of the most important variables between initial substantiated cases, subsequent cases, and re-opened cases. The data are based on Army cases only.

**Table 1. Source of Spouse Abuse Referrals**

Source of Referral	Percentage of Initial Substantiated Incidents	Percentage of Subsequent Incidents	Percentage of Re-opened Cases
Law enforcement	44.8	46.3	55.4
Medical and dental	18.9	16.9	16.4
Command	15.3	12.6	10.9
Self-referral (victim)	8.0	13.8	7.3
Self-referral (offender)	3.8	3.6	2.9
Other	5.0	4.3	3.6

**Table 2. Type of Maltreatment**

Type of Maltreatment	Percentage of Initial Substantiated Cases*	Percentage of Subsequent Incidents*	Percentage of Re-opened Cases*
Major physical injury	3.1	4.2	3.9
Minor physical injury	93.8	91.4	93.7
Emotional maltreatment	8.0	7.4	7.3

\*Percentages add to more than 100% because the number of incidents is compared to the total number of spouse abuse cases in each category and not the number of different abuse incidents.

**Table 3. Age of Spouse Abuse Victims**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Percentage of Initial Substantiated Cases</b>	<b>Percentage of Subsequent Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage of Re-opened Cases</b>
15-17	0.7	0.5	0.1
18-21	20.6	23.2	14.0
22-26	40.3	42.7	43.4
27-31	22.3	20.9	24.4
32-36	10.7	9.0	12.4
37-41	3.9	2.9	4.6
42-46	1.1	0.7	0.9
47-51	0.2	0.1	0.2
52-65	0.1	0.0	0.0 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 case

**Table 4. Sex of Spouse Abuse Victims**

<b>Sex of Victim</b>	<b>Percentage in Initial Substantiated Cases</b>	<b>Percentage in Subsequent Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage in Re-opened Cases</b>
Males	31.9	27.1	23.3
Females	68.1	72.9	76.7

**Table 5. Race of Spouse Abuse Victims**

<b>Race of Victim</b>	<b>Percentage in Initial Substantiated Cases</b>	<b>Percentage in Subsequent Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage in Re-opened Cases</b>
White	39.9	34.3	30.0
Black	47.8	53.2	58.1
Hispanic	8.0	7.7	8.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.6	4.2	3.6
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.6	0.7	0.4

**Table 6. Substance Involvement of Spouse Abuse Victims**

<b>Substance Involvement</b>	<b>Percentage of Initial Substantiated Cases</b>	<b>Percentage of Subsequent Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage of Re-opened Cases</b>
Alcohol	17.7	12.9	14.3
Drugs	0.3	0.2	0.2
Alcohol and drugs	0.3	0.3	0.2
Unknown	17.7	20.9	19.6
No involvement	64.1	65.7	65.7

**Table 7. Type of Treatment Provided to Spouse Abuse Victims**

<b>Type of Treatment</b>	<b>Percentage of Initial Substantiated Cases</b>	<b>Percentage of Subsequent Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage of Re-opened Cases</b>
Social services	90.5	91.2	90.9
Medical outpatient	24.1	24.8	25.9
Medical inpatient	1.4	2.2	1.8

**Table 8. Age of Spouse Abuse Offenders**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Percentage of Initial Substantiated Cases</b>	<b>Percentage of Subsequent Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage of Re-opened Cases</b>
15-17	0.4	0.2	0.1
18-21	17.8	19.3	10.3
22-26	41.4	44.6	43.3
27-31	23.0	22.4	26.7
32-36	11.6	9.6	13.0
37-41	4.5	3.0	5.4
42-46	1.1	0.7	1.1
47-51	0.3	0.2	0.2
52-65	0.1	0.0 <sup>1</sup>	0.0

<sup>1</sup> 1 case



**Table 9. Sex of Spouse Abuse Offenders**

<b>Sex of Offender</b>	<b>Percentage of Initial Substantiated Cases</b>	<b>Percentage of Subsequent Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage of Re-opened Cases</b>
Males	68.1	72.9	76.7
Females	31.9	27.1	23.3

**Table 10. Race of Spouse Abuse Offenders**

<b>Race of Offender</b>	<b>Percentage of Initial Substantiated Cases</b>	<b>Percentage of Subsequent Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage of Re-opened Cases</b>
White	37.8	31.3	27.0
Black	51.1	58.3	63.7
Hispanic	8.0	7.1	6.4
Asian/ Pacific Islander	2.6	2.6	2.5
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	0.6	0.7	0.4

**Table 11. Substance Involvement of Spouse Abuse Offenders**

<b>Substance Involvement</b>	<b>Percentage of Initial Substantiated Cases</b>	<b>Percentage of Subsequent Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage of Re-opened Cases</b>
Alcohol	24.1	19.1	23.1
Drugs	0.3	0.3	0.3
Alcohol and drugs	0.4	0.6	0.2
Unknown	18.5	23.6	20.2
No involvement	56.7	56.3	56.1

**Table 12. Location Where Incident Occurred**

<b>Incident Occurred</b>	<b>Percentage of Initial Substantiated Cases</b>	<b>Percentage of Subsequent Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage of Re-opened Cases</b>
On-Post	49.5	51.8	58.6
Off-Post	50.5	48.2	41.4

**Table 13. Location of Spouse Abuse Victim Residence**

<b>Victim Resides</b>	<b>Percentage of Initial Substantiated Cases</b>	<b>Percentage of Subsequent Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage of Re-opened Cases</b>
On-Post	49.3	51.3	58.8
Off-Post	50.7	48.7	41.2

**Table 14. Military and Civilian Actions Following Initial Substantiated Spouse Abuse Cases**

<b>Action Involved</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Military and Civilian Actions*</b>
Military Medical Services	40.6
Civilian Medical Services	1.4
Military Family Services	73.2
Civilian Social Services	4.1
Military Police Investigation	30.8
Civilian Police Investigation	8.4
Military Court Involvement	1.6
Civilian Court Involvement	5.3
Military Administrative Action	4.5

\*Percentages add to more than 100% because the number of incidents is compared to the total number of spouse abuse cases.

**Table 15. Military and Civilian Actions Following Subsequent Incidents of Spouse Abuse Cases**

<b>Action Involved</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Military and Civilian Actions*</b>
Military Medical Services	48.1
Civilian Medical Services	2.2
Military Family Services	69.0
Civilian Social Services	5.7
Military Police Investigation	34.5
Civilian Police Investigation	12.5
Military Court Involvement	2.9
Civilian Court Involvement	7.8
Military Administrative Action	9.8

\*Percentages add to more than 100% because the number of incidents is compared to the total number of spouse abuse cases.

**Table 16. Military and Civilian Actions Following Re-opened Cases of Spouse Abuse Cases**

<b>Action Involved</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Military and Civilian Actions*</b>
Military Medical Services	41.4
Civilian Medical Services	1.3
Military Family Services	71.3
Civilian Social Services	5.3
Military Police Investigation	36.6
Civilian Police Investigation	8.8
Military Court Involvement	2.2
Civilian Court Involvement	5.9
Military Administrative Action	8.2

\*Percentages add to more than 100% because the number of incidents is compared to the total number of spouse abuse cases.